

"supply and demand" begins to move in. When you print about 5 trillion paper dollars, the excess supply of these bills begins to degrade the value of this kind of unfunded currency.

The future problem of American citizens today is not that the stock market might collapse. It probably won't. There's too much "funny money" now in circulation that's holding it up. The real problem is not an unexpected decline in the value of American stocks, but rather a decline in the value of the American "dollar" itself. The dollar is the Common Stock in USA Incorporated a national business that now has about 255 million citizen/taxpayer shareholders. I'm one of them.

As a student of history, I feel that the shekel of ancient days and our Space Age American dollar may have much in common. With federal budget deficits in the \$164 billion a year range, and interest alone on the national debt now heading for around \$344 billion a year, this is what I mean by Fiscal Shock. We're being strangled by red tape and drowning in red ink.

Shakespeare wrote "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players." Right? No, wrong. He lived in the Elizabethan era, not today's high-tech Space Age. All the world's a system, and all the men and women are merely subsystems, activators, linkages or controls.

The current battle in Congress over reform of our \$1 trillion dollar national health care "system" illustrates the point.

This system is so big and complicated I feel that if we taxpayers, the White House and Congress aren't careful we may unwittingly legislate ourselves a medical "Tower of Babel". The keyword is complexity. In computer software, for example, W. Wayt Gibbs, staff writer for the *Scientific American* has pointed out: "When a system becomes so complex that no one manager can comprehend the entirety, traditional development processes break down." He also adds "The challenge of complexity is not only large but also growing."

Can you imagine the complexity problem that we American taxpayers are about to face in reforming our trillion dollar national health care system? We're going to need wits and wisdom. This is why I keep preaching that what this country needs is not a good 5-cent cigar, but rather a large dose of System Simplification (SYSIM) in the planning, design and operation of many of our billion (or trillion) dollar federal programs or networks.

Your life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness will be affected by the final design of the national health care SYSTEM. At the least, it's going to affect your health and your taxes. And on the subject of abortion, it's even going to involve a religious issue. This is what I mean by complexity. The Devil hides in red tape, red lights and red ink. Or to put it another way, delays, defects and deficits can create "hell" in any big system or network.

The message? Simplify, simp, sim, s.

P.S. COLA-Indexation of federal pay scales, pension rates, Social Security and other government entitlements is, in my opinion, a form of fiscal cancer that eventually consumes the entire economic body. It started around 1972. It's now time to UNCOLA our federal fiscal system.

NO TO BILINGUAL BALLOTS

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today this body scored an important victory in the battle to keep America one Nation, one people. This afternoon, the House Judiciary Committee passed legislation that repeals the Federal mandate for bilingual voting ballots.

In the spirit of so-called "multiculturalism", the Federal Government has mandated since 1965 that voting ballots and materials be printed in dozens of languages other than English.

Today, some 375 voting districts across the country are required to print ballots in foreign languages. In a classic example of an unfunded Federal mandate, politicians in Washington force States and localities to provide multilingual ballots without providing any money to pay for them.

The legislation that created this mandate is the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Under this law, counties must provide multilingual voting information and ballots in the language of any minority group with more than 10,000 eligible voters in the county.

In theory, these services should not be needed at all. Voting rights are extended to citizens of this country, and one needs to demonstrate some fluency in English to become a U.S. citizen. In practice, this requirement for citizenship is often unenforced, but that doesn't change the facts: by law, English is a requirement for citizenship in this country. We should not be providing Government services in direct contradiction with the spirit, if not the letter, of this requirement.

Moreover, these services are expensive and unnecessary. It might surprise supporters of multilingual ballots to know that very few people actually request such special treatment. By and large, multilingual ballots are rarely requested and even less often used, even when they are provided. That is what makes their costs to the local taxpayers all the more shocking.

Election officials in Alameda County, CA told me recently that they spent almost \$100,000 to produce ballots in Spanish and Chinese for the entire county, yet only 900 were ultimately requested. We can all do the math: The taxpayers of Alameda county spent over \$100 for every multilingual ballot that was actually used in their June 1994 election.

This appears to be a trend. The last election in Los Angeles saw ballots printed in 6 languages other than English, among them Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean. It cost the city government over \$125,000 to prepare the materials, and yet only 927 ballots were used. Los Angeles spent over \$135 for each voter the city helped.

Even small communities are not immune. Long Beach spent a relatively modest \$6,200 preparing multilingual materials for its eligible voters. When only 22 requests came in, the township had spent over \$280 per multilingual voter. As a frustrated election official told me recently, "this is a lot of money to help a few people." That official could not be more right.

These ballots have other, more serious costs associated with them. Providing these special services creates the fiction that newcomers to this country can enjoy the full bene-

fits of citizenship without learning the language of the land—English. We know this is not true. How can a citizen cast an informed ballot in a foreign language when most candidate platforms, stump speeches, and media coverage are in English? Exercising one's rights of citizenship involves more than just casting a vote; it means making a thoughtful decision regarding an issue or a candidate. Multilingual voting ballots give individuals the right to vote without granting the power to cast an informed vote.

The logical extent of the argument behind multilingual ballots is to provide these services in all of the languages spoken in this country. After all, why should we privilege one linguistic minority over another? And shouldn't we provide news reports and election coverage in all these languages, so that these citizens have access to all of the information they need to vote?

The simple and obvious answer is that we can't, my friends. There are 327 languages spoken in the United States today, and we can't provide these services in all of these languages. What's more, we should not. It should not be the Government's responsibility to perform these tasks. Government is too big, and it costs too much. Government should not provide services that individuals or private groups can perform just as well.

It's time that citizens look more to themselves and to their communities and less to Government for the answers to these problems. Spouses, families, friends, and community groups should bridge the gap if voting materials need to be translated. It can be done informally, as when a grandson translates an election flyer for a grandmother who speaks little English. Or it can be done more formally, through privately-funded groups that perform these services for an entire ethnic community. But the lesson to be drawn is that Government is not always the answer. In this case, Government is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, multilingual ballots and voting materials are unnecessary and inexpensive. Moreover, they fall outside the realm of Government's traditional responsibilities. Multilingual ballots are another vestige of the 1960's obsession with the Great Society and the caretaker state. This vision of Government is bankrupt, and we must dismantle the legislative relics of that era. I commend Chairman HYDE and the Judiciary Committee for their wisdom in the taking the first important step in that direction. I urge my colleagues to support this bill when it comes to the House floor.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. C. KUMAR N. PATEL

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine work and outstanding achievements of Dr. C. Kumar N. Patel, the vice chancellor of research and a professor of physics, chemistry, and electrical engineering at UCLA. Dr. Patel has been awarded the 1996 National Medal of Science, America's highest scientific honor, by President Clinton.

The National Medal of Science recognizes Dr. Patel's leadership and innovative contributions to science for the betterment of society.